

## WRDA 2010 PROJECT AND STUDY REQUEST

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Carol Ehrlich , Chief of Staff

Requesting Entity: Township of Woodbridge

Daytime Phone Number: (732) 602-6015

Mobile Phone Number: (732) 589-2126

Email: Caroline.ehrlich@twp.woodbridge.nj.us

Physical Address of Requesting Entity: 1 Main Street  
Woodbridge, NJ 07095

### CORPS INFORMATION

Corps District: New York District

Corps Contact Name: Jason Shea - Civil Engineer/Watershed Planner

Corps Contact Number: 917-790-8727

Corps Contact Email: Jason.A.Shea@usace.army.mil

### PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name: Rahway River Watershed, New Jersey

Cities Impacted: Woodbridge, Edison, Rahway, Linden, Clark, Cranford, Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Westfield, Garwood, Kenilworth, Union, Springfield, Mountainside, Summit, Millburn, Maplewood, S. Orange, W. Orange

Counties Impacted: Middlesex, Union, Essex

Non- Federal Sponsor: Township of Woodbridge

**Project Purposes** (Please choose one or more of the following- Navigation, Environmental Protection and Restoration, Flood Damage Reduction, Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction, Shoreline Protection, Hydroelectric Power, Water Supply, Recreation, Aquatic Plant Control, Environmental Infrastructure):  
\$20,000,000 for a critical restoration project including flood damage reduction, water supply, environmental protection and restoration

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Please note - a general investigation of the Rahway River Watershed would allow for extensive technical work to be performed, including data collection, analysis, screening, prioritization, conceptual design, and cost estimates of potential restoration sites within the watershed.

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**Location of the Project:** The project spans three counties, including in Woodbridge in Middlesex County, but also Union County and Essex County

**Description of the Project:** The Rahway River Watershed in northeast NJ consists of a drainage area of 82 square miles. The watershed has a population density five times the state average and 75 times the national average. This urbanization and its concurrent effects on the river system has caused many recalcitrant problems including flooding, severe erosion, water pollution and other related issues. In Woodbridge, these problems include need for stream bank stabilization of the Pumpkin Patch Brook from Inwood Way to the Municipal boundary, reconstruction of multiple culverts, continued restoration of remaining sections of the Woodbridge Creek tidal wetlands, and other areas experiencing deposition and streambank erosion. The Corps has recommended a comprehensive approach to the watershed to develop measurable improvements.

**Federal Interest/Nexus** (how does this funding request affect surrounding communities and or benefit this country collectively?): This funding request affects surrounding communities because of the very large size of the Rahway River watershed and the extent of flooding, erosion, and water pollution problems throughout. This funding would help to address the needs of 20 communities in three of the most populous and densely populated counties in New Jersey, Middlesex, Essex, and Union. The comprehensive, regional approach to the problems that exist within the watershed represents the most efficient and cost-effective approach, according to the Army Corps of Engineers.

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**Priority:** Why would this project be a priority for the federal government?

To help local property owners, taxpayers, and municipalities to address the significant costs associated with flooding and erosion on a regional-coordinated scale, preventing future losses of property.

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**PREVIOUS FUNDING HISTORY**

Has this project been requested in a previous WRDA bill? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO X

If yes, please list the years it has been requested: \_\_\_\_\_

Has the project been included in a previous WRDA bill or received funds in previous years?  
YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO X

If yes, please list the bill, year, funding source (i.e. bill name/number or grant) and/or amount received (e.g. The FY05 Transportation Appropriations Bill, P.L. 108-447, \$50,000): \_\_\_\_\_

Has the project received non-federal funds in previous years? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO X

If yes, please list the year, funding source and amount received: \_\_\_\_\_

**OUTSIDE SUPPORT:**

Are other Members of Congress requesting this project? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please list members' names \_\_\_\_\_ The project is also being submitted to Rep. Sires.

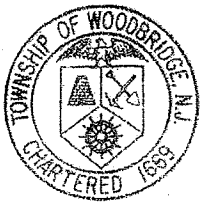
Do other State and Local organizations support this project? YES X \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please list organizations' names (and please attach letters of support): \_\_\_\_\_

Union County is submitting a request letter that also asks for a comprehensive approach to the Rahway River Watershed (attached)

SIGNATURE  DATE 11/25/09

Please be aware that according to my earmark pledge, I will divulge all information regarding a federal funding request on my website. By signing this document, you acknowledge to the possible public disclosure of the federal funding request.



# Township of Woodbridge

John E. McCormac, CPA, Mayor

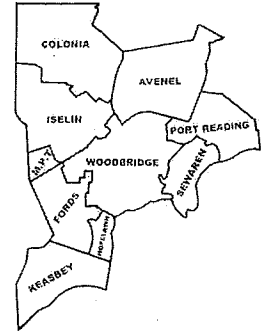
## Office of the Mayor

John E. McCormac, CPA, Mayor

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November 25, 2009

The Honorable James L. Oberstar  
Chairman  
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
2165 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

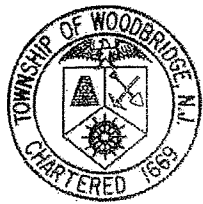
The Honorable John Mica  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
2163 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Oberstar and Ranking Member Mica:

I am writing on behalf of the Township of Woodbridge to express my strong support for the Rahway River Watershed Critical Restoration Project and I urge your assistance in authorizing related efforts by the Army Corps of Engineers in the upcoming authorization of the Water Resources Development Act.

The Rahway River Watershed in northeast New Jersey has a drainage area of 82 square miles, including the Township of Woodbridge, as well as 19 other communities across three northern New Jersey counties, including the counties of Middlesex, Union, and Essex. The watershed has a population density five times the state average and 75 times the national average; as such, the problems affect a very large number of people and the solutions that can be developed will yield widespread benefits across the region. This urbanization and its concurrent effects on the river system have caused many problems throughout the Township, including flooding, severe erosion, water pollution and other related issues. In Woodbridge specifically, these problems include need for stream bank stabilization of the Pumpkin Patch Brook from Inwood Way to the municipal boundary; reconstruction of multiple culverts in the Township; continued restoration of remaining sections of the Woodbridge Creek tidal wetlands; and other areas experiencing deposition and stream bank erosion.

The Army Corps of Engineers has come to Woodbridge to survey our water resources needs and issues in a preliminary fashion. As a result, it has recommended authorization of a Critical Restoration Project that would take a holistic, comprehensive approach to the watershed that will translate into improvements that



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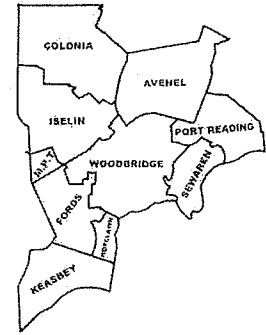
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will be measurable and discernable. Therefore, I respectfully urge you to provide appropriate authority for the Army Corps of Engineers to our area's complex watershed based multipurpose objectives, inclusive of initiation and completion of a General Management Plan for the Rahway River Watershed, and to initiate pilot projects identified in the Plan. The Township of Woodbridge would be a non-federal financial sponsor in this effort and would be prepared to provide the required local funding match to complete the Plan.

Thank you for your kind and careful consideration of this request and I look forward to working with you closely on this priority initiative in the months ahead.

Sincerely,

John E. McCormac

Mayor

Township of Woodbridge